

REMARKS

Claims 29, 38, 41 and 42 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 29 and 41 are amended. No new matter is added by these amendments as support, with respect to claim 29, may be found in at least paragraphs [0110] and [0117] of the Applicants' specification. Claim 43 is canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in that claim. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 5, objects to claim 41 for informalities. Claim 41 is amended to obviate the informalities. Withdrawal of the objection to claim 41 is respectfully requested.

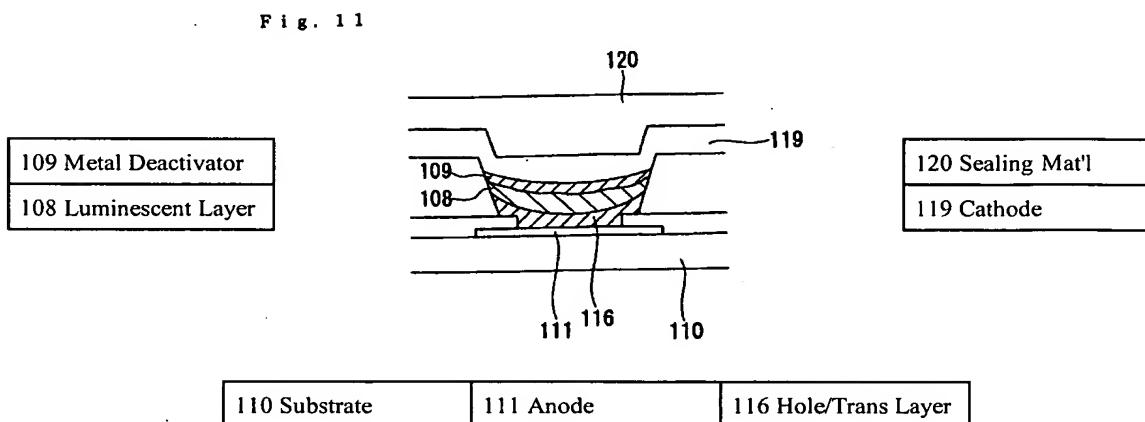
The Office Action, in paragraph 7, rejects claims 29, 38 and 41-43 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,091,196 to Codama. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In asserting that Codama teaches the features recited in at least independent claim 29, the Office Action states, in paragraph 7, that the electron injecting and transporting layer of Codama corresponds to the metal deactivator layer that is provided between the luminescent layer and the cathode, as positively recited in pending claim 1. Further, the Office Action goes on to assert that Codama teaches that the electron injecting and transporting layer may be comprised of a triazole compound. This assertion is incorrect for the following reason.

The Office Action refers specifically to col. 12, lines 34-38 of Codama, as teaching this feature. However, the specific reference provided by the Examiner refers to the hole injecting and transporting layer, as opposed to the electron injecting and transporting layer. The electron injecting and transporting layer may be comprised of organic metal complexes such as those listed in col. 12, lines 10-15. As such, Codama cannot reasonably be considered to teach that what is asserted as corresponding to the metal deactivating layer of

the pending claims, can reasonably be considered to be comprised of a triazole compound, or a hydrazide compound.

The pending claims recite a layering as illustrated below:



Codama teaches that the hole injection and transporting layer may be formed of compounds including triazole and hydrazide, which are positively recited as being contained in the metal deactivator. Therefore, Codama teaches that these compounds are found in the hole injecting and transporting layer (col. 12, lines 29-43). As illustrated in Fig. 11 (shown above) the pending claims recite the metal deactivator is provided between the luminescent layer and the cathode. Codama cannot reasonably be considered to teach the features positively recited in the pending claims.

Further, Codama does not teach, nor would it have suggested, the benefits of locating the metal deactivator layer on the sealing 120 side of the luminescent layer 108. The disposition of the metal deactivator layer reduces and/or prevents changes in the physical properties. Particularly, changes in the physical properties of the materials on the sealing side of the electroluminescent device that are easily influenced by the presence of oxygen and moisture in the atmosphere.

For at least the above reasons, Codama cannot reasonably be considered to teach, or to have suggested, the combination of all of the features recited in at least independent claim 29.

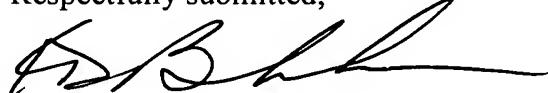
Further, claims 38, 41 and 42 would also not have been suggested by the applied prior art reference for at least the respective dependence of these claims on allowable independent claim 29, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 29, 38, 41 and 42 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the applied reference are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 29, 38, 41 and 42 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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